

Inside This Issue

Executive Director's Letter
New Board Members
NAH Provider Services
NAH Transportation Services

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Tamara J. Bliss, President
Robert Larnar, Vice-President
Susan Flicop, Secretary
Harvey Creem, Treasurer
Cynthia Pill
Verne Vance
Ruth Glotzer
Renata Selig

NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Elizabeth Simons
Madelyn Bell
Jatin Dave
Sue Flicop
Susan Murray
Elizabeth Simons

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Arlene Lowney

Editorial: Naomi Shore
Layout: Garrow Throop
Copyediting: Ellie Goldberg

Newton at Home has been organized to enable Newton residents to age at home comfortably, safely, independently, and with peace of mind through a membership-based organization that offers access to comprehensive practical services and fosters social support and a sense of community.

For more information call 617-795-2560 or go to <http://newtonathome.org>

Letter from Arlene Lowney, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Welcome. It is with pleasure that I welcome you to Newton at Home's

During this pre-launch period, we will offer preferred provider services and fun, cultural programs to those who sign up as members. We will provide members with transportation to and from NAH-sponsored events.

year of firsts. We opened our first office at 206 Waltham Street, West Newton, MA 02465. We have an active pre-launch period from now through April. And we are planning an official opening at the end of April.

Through the winter months, we are tapping into the rich array of excellent music, theatre, and museum opportunities that are available here in Newton and surrounding

(Continued next page)

New Board Members



Madelyn Bell

A professional fundraiser, Madelyn is

a long-time Newton activist. She is currently manager of special projects for Newton Community Pride, was a member of the Newton2000 Board of Directors and was instrumental in launching Newton Serves, the city's annual volunteer day. Madelyn started her career as a fundraiser for Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Boston and then moved to the American Technion Society, spending 1990/1991 in Israel reorganizing that institution's worldwide fundraising activities. She also served as manager of special projects at Hebrew Senior Life. Madelyn has been a Newton

resident for 46 years and raised two sons in the city.



Dr. Jatin Dave

Dr. Jatin Dave is a geriatrician and a

hospitalist at the Brigham and Women's Hospital. He graduated from the Gujarat University-B. J. Medical College in India in 1994, did his residency at the University of Illinois College of Medicine. He completed a general internal medicine fellowship at New York University and a geriatric medicine fellowship at Harvard Medical School, where he also received a Master's in Public Health. He has taught geriatric medicine at Harvard and is board-certified as an internal

(Continued next page)

Executive Director *(From first page)*

towns. We anticipate arranging for group discounts and offering opportunities for NAH members to eat together before or after some of the events. In addition, we are preparing a full calendar of events such as pre-movie lectures before movies at the West Newton Cinema or the Embassy Waltham, a guided tour of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and pot luck dinners in different neighborhoods with speakers.

Those who become members of NAH during the pre-launch period will get additional months of service for one year's worth of dues. For example, people who sign up as NAH members at one of the pre-launch parties on January 23 or January 26 will get fifteen months of member services.

Beginning in May we will offer our members more office hours and a much wider role for Newton at Home's excellent volunteers. They will provide transportation to and from doctor's appointments, airports, and symphony concerts and assistance with chores, handyman repairs, bill paying, a "computer tutor," plant watering, and dog walking. There will also be greater access to screened vendors for larger home projects.

And, as we expand our membership and our services, there will be a much fuller breadth and depth of programs and events on our calendar. Spring will find us on walking tours of Newton, Boston, Mt. Auburn Cemetery, and Prospect Park in Waltham. We are planning to introduce the art of book club formation, health & wellness lectures and activities, a Genealogy Club with lectures from local experts, a bridge club, a musical series, and discounts at restaurants before or after a Newton event.

As always, we look to you to tell us what you would like to see and participate in. We also welcome feedback after you have attended an event or joined a club or interest group. Call us at 617-795-2560 or email director@newtonathome.org

Most of all stay tuned!

New Board Members *(From first page)*

medicine, geriatrics and hospice and palliative care physician. He has lived in Newton for the past five years and is raising two sons who attend Newton schools



Sue Flicop

Sue has been active in the Newton community for many years. As a parent leader and advocate for Newton public schools, she is currently serving a fourth year as co-chair of the Newton PTO Council. Sue is a Board member of the League of Women Voters and of Historic Newton and a member of the Newton Community Service Center Advisory Council. A graduate of University of Massachusetts in Amherst, she has an MBA from Northeastern University and was a PhD Candidate at the University of Maryland in international transportation and logistics. Her work experience includes advertising sales and graduate work in research and teaching. Sue is married to Christopher Hill, has three girls in the Newton Public Schools, and currently lives in Chestnut Hill.



Susan M. Murray

Susan M. Murray brings expertise in business and health care to the board of Newton at Home. She is presently a health care policy consultant working with the University of Massachusetts Medical School to improve employment options for people with disabilities. She also served as a nurse practitioner at Newton Wellesley Hospital and an executive in a managed care company. Susan has been an advocate for the education of girls in the inner city for over 10 years and has been an active board member and the board chair of Mother Caroline Academy and Education Center in Dorchester, MA. She and her husband have resided in Newton Highlands for 27 years. As Co-chair of the Newton at Home Search Committee, Susan played a pivotal role in the hiring of the organization's executive director.



Elizabeth R. Simons

Liz is a research scientist and educator who has served on the faculties of Wellesley College and Harvard and Boston Universi-

ties. She has lived in West Newton for 57 years and still resides in the home she and her husband bought after finishing graduate school. Always passionate about classical music, Liz is executive administrator and vice-chair of the Board of Directors of the Boston Artists Ensemble, a professional chamber music ensemble based in Newton. Liz chairs the Newton at Home Provider Services Committee and is responsible for screening recommended individuals and organizations whose services will permit members to receive quality services and remain comfortably in their own homes as they grow older.

PROVIDER SERVICES

NAH Provider Services

All Newton at Home members can contact us for referrals in over 30 service categories. Each vendor is highly recommended by a friend of Newton at Home. We are in the process of screening additional vendors, contractors and other service providers and will add them continuously throughout the pre-launch period.

To receive information from our preferred providers list, please call 617-795-2560 or email vendors@newtonathome.org. We'll provide the names of one to three preferred providers that we are confident will meet your needs. You will be responsible for contacting the provider directly to arrange and pay for the service. We are beginning to solicit discounts for our members from individual providers. We will inform you of them as they become available.

Currently we have service providers in the following categories:

- **Major and small projects and repairs**, appliance installation and repair, auto repair, carpet repair and cleaning, construction, interior design and renovation, electrical work, flooring, handyman services, heating, home alarms, house cleaning services, masonry, painting, pest control, plumbing, roofing, snow shoveling and plowing, tree care, wallpapering and window cleaning.

- **Technology**, help with computers and the Internet, electronic devices, DVDs, VCRs, and TVs.
- **Healthcare providers** (mainly in your home), geriatric care management, home health care, personal trainers, hospice care, and others.
- **Bill payment assistance.**

When you contact Newton at Home, please provide your name, your phone number, and the preferred provider category that you are interested in. After a service has been completed, we will ask you to evaluate the provider and give us feedback on the referral process, service delivery, and how we might improve in the future.

If you need a referral in a category not on our list, please let us know as we are happy to add categories. We are also seeking knowledgeable volunteers who can help you develop your requirements and assess provider responses/estimates for very complex projects like waterproofing a basement or remodeling your kitchen.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

NAH Transportation Strategy and Services

by Bob Larner, Chair, Transportation Committee

Getting there and back. Sounds routine. But it may not be easy if you don't own a car, no longer drive, or can't drive at night, and you live at a distance from public transportation; or you can't drive temporarily because of a medical condition or procedure.

Newton at Home's Transportation Committee has developed a strategy with three major components to help our members get between their homes and their desired destinations:

- 1) referral to one of the existing transportation services with deeply discounted rates for Newton seniors when the service meets the member's particular need;
- 2) access to carefully-screened and insured NAH volunteer drivers when available; and
- 3) referral to fee-based transportation companies and drivers selected and screened by Newton at Home's Provider Services Committee.

After a call or an e-mail to our office, Newton at Home will help our members arrange the appropriate transportation to meet their needs. We will

(Continued next page)

Transportation (Continued)

typically look to provide transportation in the order listed above. When volunteers are available, NAH will make the arrangements. Members will need to contact the existing services or the paid vendors directly. NAH will keep track of member satisfaction with the service however the service is provided.

For example, if a member wants to go to the grocery store and there is an existing service that meets the member's needs, we will refer the member to the service. However, if the times or locations most convenient to our member are not provided by existing services, NAH will first try to find a volunteer driver and if we cannot do so, we will refer our member to a fee-based service.

There will be no charge for rides provided by NAH's volunteer drivers except for tolls or parking fees. Members will pay the fee-based vendors directly, but NAH will have negotiated discounts with some of them.

Newton offers a number of deeply discounted transportation services to a number of specific destinations that seniors are eligible to use. However, restrictions apply to these services and it may be confusing to understand eligibility, cost, schedules, and how to arrange a ride. NAH will be able to explain these details and make referrals.

Newton at Home is working to identify, screen, and train volunteer drivers. During this pre-launch period, NAH will provide our members with information about existing transportation

Newton at Home is very grateful to all of our donors as we near our fundraising goal of \$100,000, or more, before our full opening this spring. At the time this newsletter went to press, we had raised \$83,600 from 169 donors. This sum is needed so that NAH can operate on a sound footing. We have also received pledges for an additional \$8,500. We would like to especially recognize our Founding Donors, those who have contributed \$500 or more. Founding Donors, like NAH members, will have full access to our Preferred Providers List

services for Newton seniors and about paid vendors. NAH will provide volunteer drivers only for transportation to and from Newton at Home-sponsored events. When Newton at Home becomes fully operational, we anticipate that volunteers will be available to drive members to many destinations not served by other community agencies.. For additional information, call us at 617-795-2560 or email info@newtonathome.org.

To sign up to become a volunteer driver for Newton at Home, call us or send an email to volunteers@newtonathome.org. To recommend someone to be screened by Newton at Home as a "for pay" driver, call us or send a note to vendors@newtonathome.org. We look forward to working with you to help provide member services that are always respectful, consistent and convenient for our members.

Thank you for your interest and your commitment.



NEWTON AT HOME
FOUNDING DONORS

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

\$10,000 +
Anonymous

SUSTAINERS,
\$5,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous
Tamara & John Bliss
Bob & Anne Larner
Cynthia & Robert Pill
Wellington F. Scott
Renata & Ed Selig
Verne & Anita Vance

SPONSORS

\$2,500 - \$4,999
Anonymous
Pat & Larry Burdick
Ruth & Donald Glotzer

SUPPORTERS

\$1,000 - \$2,499
Anonymous
Wally & Roz Bernheimer
Harvey & Cynthia Stone Creem
Sue Flicop & Chris Hill
Deborah & Marc Fogel
Eileen & Barney Freiberg-Dale
Marilyn Silverman
Jeremy Warburg Russo

FRIENDS

\$500 - \$999
AvalonBay Communities, Inc
Madelyn Bell
Bill and Maria Brisk
Jean Bonney & Eugene Ferrari
Carol and Blair Brown
Miceal and Nancie Chamberlain
Saul & Naomi Cohen
Doug Dickson & Sharon Smith
Rob Gifford & Claire Sokoloff
Iolanda Low
Susan M. Murray & Wayne Merritt
Rosalind & Robert Palter
Linda Plaut
Deborah & Scott Weiss